

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting December 8, 2015  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Ms. Ahearn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**COMMITTEE**

Jennifer Ahearn, Chair  
Eugene A. Nadeau, Vice Chair  
M. Terri Medeiros, Clerk  
Bethany A. Furtado  
Karen Bachus

MOTION 2015-328: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to go into closed session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(4), (a)(9).

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – not present for vote  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye      Karen Bachus – not present for vote  
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye

The Chair announced that the employees involved in the executive session discussion/action hearings have been notified in writing of their right to have the hearing in open session, but have opted to have them in executive session.

The meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

**Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session**

MOTION 2015-329: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session for December 8, 2015.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye      Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye

**Votes taken in Executive Session**

It was noted there were no votes taken in the executive session.

Recognition – Toll Gate Girls' Soccer Team

**Approval of Minutes**

MOTION 2015-330: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for November 10, 2015.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye      Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye

**Vote of Minutes of Executive Session**

MOTION 2015-331: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for November 10, 2015.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye      Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye

**Approval of Transfers**

MOTION 2015-332: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau – Aye      Karen Bachus – Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye

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**Approval of Warrants**

MOTION 2015-333: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Announcements**

**Professional personnel items**

**Declination of appointment**

MOTION 2015-334: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to rescind the appointment of **Kristen White**, school psychologist – (declined).

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Appointments:**

MOTION 2015-335: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Douglas Alexander**, Director of Technology, step 1, Administrative Pay Scale, is approved (starting date to be determined) and that the appointment of **Catherine Bonang**, Secretary to the Superintendent, be approved, effective December 17, 2015.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Classified personnel items**

**Retirement(s)/Resignation(s)**

MOTION 2015-336: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the retirement of **Donna Beckett**, teacher assistant @ Pilgrim High School be accepted effective December 18, 2015; retirement of **Ellen Cashman**, teacher assistant @ Lippitt Elementary be accepted effective December 18, 2015; retirement of **Robert Donnelly**, custodian @ Park Elementary be accepted effective December 18, 2015; retirement of Robyn **Enright**, senior clerk typists, business office be accepted effective December 18, 2015; **Raymond Mercello**, cleaner @ Gorton Jr. High be accepted effective December 22, 2015; retirement of **Steve Martin**, custodian @ Gorton Jr. High be accepted effective November 20, 2015; retirement of **Barbara Roderk**, teacher assistant at Winman Jr. High be accepted effective December 18, 2015; retirement of **Joyce Rowan**, secretary, director of special services be accepted effective December 18, 2015; retirement of **John Thompson**, custodian, Veterans High be accepted effective December 18, 2015.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Coaching appointments**

MOTION 2015-337: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the appointment of **Scott Bayha**, head coach girls' basketball @ Pilgrim High School; **Anthony Meyers**, head coach wrestling at Veterans be approved for one year only.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Public Comment:**

Issues and comments made by the public: ○ comments about a flyer put out by WTU; ○ said with consolidation more programs now cuts, need a teacher contact; working together for the consolidation and resolving contract; ○ opting out of exploratory classes and adding curriculum classes; keyboarding is necessary; concerns about Honors Program and maintaining honor classes; please negotiate contract; ○ communication critical factor, people expressing anger; ○ increasing foreign language and starting at an earlier age – not cutting foreign language; ○ teaching foreign language too quickly is not good – pace gradual teaching; ○ cannot support decision to eliminate language program; problem with child acting

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out but no social workers, guidance or psychologist available – need support staff; ○ moving public comment to the middle of meeting with two minutes to speak not meaningful discourse; wasting money on lawyers and consultants, years ago should have separate HR/lawyer; ○ consolidation suppose to create opportunity for students; keyboarding is serious – puts our students at a disadvantage to remove as it provides cognitive thinking and writing skills; ○ Keyboarding provides instruction on Microsoft and Goggle, power point and without the course in Jr. High will not have computer knowledge; ○ wrong for time limited in public comment, spending money on administrator position, rigorous classes are being eliminated; concern about the curriculum for Jr. High 7/8 next year – concern impact – too much change

**Information and proposals from Superintendent,  
Staff and School Committee members:**

Superintendent Thornton spoke about repurposing Gorton Junior High as the school administration building. The Gorton auditorium could be used for school committee meetings. Also discussion regarding “dead spots” in cell phone coverage and using walkie talkies.

Ms. Bachus said it was not a wise decision to eliminate support staff such as social workers and psychologists. We have kids in trouble and no one to help them. She said consolidation was suppose to give our kids more opportunities – make schools better – and now not having keyboarding any more. We need it and we need to keep it. Taking away foreign language is ridiculous, the exploratory classes are weak; we need to get teachers teaching what they know best. She felt that a personal finance course should be a required class. She reminded people that the next meeting of the Outreach Committee is January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Career Center. Mr. Nadeau commented about a flyer that he received in his neighborhood concerning Ms. Ahearn.

**Employee termination hearing (2) and Employee status update/job performance**

Ms. Ahearn reported there were three items for discussion/action of employees on the agenda – only one matter was voted on; the other two were tabled.

MOTION 2015-338: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to terminate the director of facilities.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Update on Consolidation** – Ms. Furtado reported a meeting was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and we will be meeting again on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The updated information is on the website. Ms. Dambruch reported that students attending Career Center will have their academics at Toll Gate which will give them more instructional time. Inventory received. Survey is available regarding middle school certification from URI – to see how many teachers are interested in receiving information. Classes would start in February. Sports Committee Jr. High looking into best facility to play and practice. A survey is going to junior high students to see who would be interested.

**Update on PARCC Scores** Power point presentation by Ms. Dambruch, Mr. Ruscito and Dr. Siesel.

**Update on Chromebook initiative, Google email migration, First Class retirement** - Power point presentation

**Update of Warwick Area Career and Tech Center capital projects** - Mr. Ferrucci said we have taken possession of the Career and Technical Center. In consideration for taking over the Career and Technical Center, Warwick Public Schools will receive \$3.1 million dollars payable over three years. Payment Schedule: \$950,000 (within 30 days of signing transfer agreement); \$1,800,000 by August 15, 2015 and \$350,000 by August 15, 2016. Payments have been made according to schedule. Capital project priorities: Roof \$325,000 (upcoming summer 2016); Mechanical HVAC \$575,000; Plumbing (hot water heater) \$135,000. (Total 1,035,000)

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**Reading Specialist Position** – Ms. Desrosiers proposed a .4 position at the Career Center so students don't have to come after school to be served in literacy. There would be support during the school day.

MOTION 2015-339: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the .4 reading specialist position.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Contract Award AESOP substitute calling system** – Mr. Ferrucci reported most school districts use a substitute calling attendance reporting software system called ASEOP. Staff throughout the state sign up for this service and are notified of sub openings. The substitute can schedule themselves well in advance. The cost for the balance of this fiscal year is \$12,540 and would be covered by elimination of one of the positions not filled.

MOTION 2015-340: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to award the contract.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Increase in teacher sub pay** – Dr. Thornton requested an increase in substitute pay. Our current first 30 days of substitute coverage rate would go from \$75 to \$85 a day. For days in excess of 30 days, the rate would go from \$90 to \$100 per day. The increase would be generated by both the percentage increase in the rate as well as the likelihood that more vacant sub requests would be filled in the future.

MOTION 2015-341: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to approve the increase substitute teacher pay.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Contract Award – Autism Project**

Request to award contract to Autism Project for professional development services associated with ASD classrooms. The contract will not exceed \$18,050 and the amount is budgeted.

MOTION 2015-342: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to award the contract.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Contract Award – Wilson Language Training Course -**

Recommended to award contract for Wilson Language Training to West Bay Collaborative in the amount of \$15,900 -- money is budgeted.

MOTION 2015-343: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to award the contract to West Bay Collaborative.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Contract Award – Verizon Wireless Phones** – Request approval for additional Verizon wireless lines in the amount of \$9,085 to cover all staff that currently do not have a cell phone assigned to them. Beginning next year the fiscal impact will be an added \$15,575. Ms. Ahearn commented that she had trouble with Verizon and dropped calls. The motion would be approved as long as no dropped calls.

MOTION 2015-344: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the request for additional Verizon wireless lines.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

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**Contract Award – Hand Held Radios – BearCom Wireless** - Request to award a contract to BearCom Wireless for 24 hand-held walkie talkies in the amount of \$10,875.

**MOTION 2015-345:** Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to award a contract to BearCom Wireless for 24 hand-held walkie talkies.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Contract Award – Barracuda Spam Firewall software** - Request is made to renew WPS spam firewall software to Whalley Computer Associates, Inc in the amount of \$6,587. This amount is budgeted in Technology's FY2016 budget.

**MOTION 2015-346:** Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to renew the Barracuda Spam Firewall Software in the amount of \$6,587.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**Rhode Island Student Survey**

**MOTION 2015-347:** Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the RI Student Survey.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**FY2016 Monthly Financial Report – Mr. Ferrucci – For the period ending 11/24/15**

Total Revenue received	\$136,309,547
Total Expenditures	36,835,845
Total Encumbrances	11,635,935

[Excludes salaries and fringe benefits]

**Summary Review of non-salary and fringe benefits costs**

School Committee	School Committee	School Committee	School Committee
Approved Budget	Revised Approved Budget	Revised Approved	Revised Approved Budget
7/15/15	7/15/15	8/11/15	11/10/15
\$25,770,266	\$ 25,945,266	26,795,266	\$27,099,371
	Year to date	Percentage of	
	Exp.&Encumber	Non Staff Costs	
	11/24/15		
	\$18,199,684	67.2%	

**Bids/Change Orders**

**MOTION 2015-348:** Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the bid for communications consultant be awarded to Martin & Associates as per bid tabulation

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**MOTION 2015-349:** Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the bid for Administrative Reorganization Review Consultant be awarded to Strategic Innovations in Education (SIE) as per bid tabulation.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

**MOTION 2015-350:** Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to adjourn.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye      M. Terri Medeiros – Aye  
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye      Karen Bachus - Aye  
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.